

What is the ruling on imitating animal noises?

Shaykh Sulaymān ibn Nāsir al-'Alwān (حفظه الله) said:

Shaykh al-Islām ibn Taymiyyāh (رحمه الله) has prohibited this in Majmū' al-Fatāwah and he has mentioned 6 reasons for that. He has also alluded towards this in other places, where he said that Allāh (سبحانه وتعالى) has given the son of Ādam certain characteristics, and has given cattle certain characteristics, so it's not permissible for the son of Ādam who Allāh (سبحانه وتعالى) has honoured to imitate cattle/animals.

A group of Fuqahā' dislike it, and do not consider it forbidden, but as for Shaykh al-Islām ibn Taymiyyāh (رحمه الله), then he sees it completely prohibited, and that whoever imitates bird noises, cattle noises, wild animal noises, then he is completely prevented from that, and upon the other saying that it's disliked.

Those who do not prohibit it say there's no textual evidence regarding the impermissibility of imitating cattle, and mimicking a noise is not a prohibition, and the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "Whoever imitates a people, then he is from them" i.e. Imitates the Kuffār, or the people of innovation & misguidance, wherein imitating them results in affection & harm, and as a result of that, there would be mildness/softness in al-Walā' wal-Barā', and what would occur from imitating them openly is that it creates love & affection on the inside, so they say this is not present in imitating the sounds of the birds, so that's why they dislike it out of care & remaining on the safe side.